



From the desk of Mr. Tackett

To the parents of English I Writing students:

Clyde High School has added a thirty-minute period to the school day for three days a week – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday – for teachers to work with students individually and in small groups. During this thirty-minute Flier Period, I will offer students targeted intervention in their areas of weakness: reading strategies, development of ideas, grammatical errors in published writings, along with other skills.

However, I need to be able to identify struggling students before formal (graded) assessments are given. Therefore, formative assessments will be the primary method I will use to assess students' understandings of the class content. Each week, students will be given formal and informal formative assessments; think of them as practice quizzes. These formative assessments will be short – perhaps only one to two questions – and will target specific skills taken from the state curriculum for English I Writing. I will grade these formative assessments and place the scores on Progress Book, the electronic grade book program you and your student should be able to access. Because these are practice quizzes, the scores will not be weighted. Your student may receive a score of 3, the highest score for a formative assessment quiz, but the grade will not count toward the student's final grade, even though the score will be posted on Progress Book. The purpose is to monitor understanding and provide intervention, if needed. Your student will not be given an actual grade for the concept in question until the actual quiz is administered.

The formative assessments will be labeled as F.A. in Progress Book and will be given the following scores:

3 = Complete understanding of the concept

2 = Shows understanding of the concept

1 = Poor / limited understanding of the concept

0 = Shows no understanding of the concept

The first formative assessment of the semester was given on September 2, and the Progress Book score will read like this:

F.A. 1 Misplaced Modifiers

Your student (score placed here)

Once again, the grade may read as a score of 3, but since it is weighted as zero, the formative assessment will not influence your student's grade. The formative assessment score is posted on Progress Book to show you which concept(s) your student understands and which concept(s) the student does not comprehend. This will also allow me to determine the students who need direct assistance during Flier Period.

If you have any questions about formative assessments and their purposes, please contact me. Thank you.

Charles Tackett

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